

# The Library Assistant:

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

**The Sixth Monthly Meeting** of the present Session will be held at the **National Library for the Blind, 18, Tufton Street, S.W.**, on Wednesday, **19th March**, at **7.30 p.m.**

As stated last month, the proceedings will be devoted to a consideration of the Association's present position and immediate policy for the future. The occasion may prove a turning point in the Association's history, or at least mark a stage in its development. An appeal is therefore made to every member and friend of the Association to be present in order that the fullest possible expression of opinion may be forthcoming, and that no point of view may be overlooked. Especially does the Council hope that every demobilized man who has returned to library work will attend. It is not enough that those coming to the meeting should be content with silent spectatorship: members should reflect upon the business of the evening and be prepared to assist the meeting to wise and helpful decisions.

**Lectures on Librarianship.**—The Library Association has determined to promote immediately four courses of six fortnightly lectures on "Cataloguing, Classification, Organization and Administration." The lectures will commence early in March, the fee for each course being six shillings. The object is to provide assistance for demobilized students and others desirous of entering for the next Professional Examination, which has been postponed until the week commencing June 16th. In connection with these courses Mr. MacAlister is offering a First Prize of £5, a Second Prize of £2 10s., and a Third Prize consisting of a return of all fees paid, to the three students making the best results, full particulars concerning which will be available later. This is a praiseworthy effort on the part of the Library Association to meet the requirements of those who have been deprived of opportunities for improving their knowledge, and at the same time provides advantageously for many others who seem to be seeking instruction in the main principles of librarianship. We trust our readers will do what they can to support the arrangements in every possible direction, by making the lectures known, by taking up the courses themselves, or by making personal sacrifices for the accommodation of colleagues. We should like to see the departure meet with unqualified success. We also understand that a series of correspondence classes will be held for the benefit of provincial students. Further information will be supplied by Dr. E. A. Baker, Hon. Secretary, L.A. Education Committee, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W. 1.

**Our Last Meeting.** — Save for the small attendance, the last monthly general meeting was strangely reminiscent of pre-war days. By the kindness of Mr. W. J. Harris we were allowed to meet at the Islington Central Library, where we have gathered on several previous occasions. Mr. and Mrs. Harris generously provided refreshments and a profitable and entertaining evening's programme on "Library Readings." Mr. Harris first read a brief paper on the organization and conduct of readings and reading circles, and Mrs. Harris followed with a paper on her experiences in connection with children's reading circles and story hours. Both papers were excellently illustrated with specimens of actual readings and stories.

**To Our Returned Colleagues.** — May we again be allowed to welcome back into our midst every Library worker who has been demobilized, whether he be a member of the L.A.A. or not. It was a great pleasure for us to meet four of our colleagues at the last meeting, Messrs. Bolton, Clinch, Faraday and Warner. As we have intimated elsewhere, in common with most other professions, librarianship has many problems calling for wise solutions. In view of these facts we particularly ask that every returned library worker will place himself in touch with the General Association or with his nearest Branch. We do not necessarily ask him to join our ranks, but all officers of the Association would like to have the privilege of personally welcoming back every colleague who has served his country so well. In particular, we would like to see every demobilized London assistant at the March meeting. One of the important matters to be discussed is that of affiliation with the National Association of Local Government Officers.

**Election of Officers and Council.** — In connection with the next Annual General Meeting it is proposed to revert to the pre-war custom of taking a ballot for the election of Officers and Council for the ensuing year. We make this early announcement in order that members may have ample time to look round for the men and women who shall best fill the positions.

The immediate future is full of vital problems, and it is essential that every officer and councillor of the Association shall be keenly interested in modern librarianship, particularly in such matters as affect the welfare of library assistants, whether from the financial or any other point of view. The officers consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Council comprises ten London and ten non-London members, and not more than two councillors may be elected from a single library system. For the ensuing year the President must be a London member, and the Vice-President a non-London member.

**Mr. H. M. Cashmore.**—We think that the many readers who know Mr. Cashmore, Deputy librarian of Birmingham and Chairman of our Midland Branch, will be interested to read the following tribute to his excellent army work. Mr. Cashmore has been engaged at a school of instruction for infantry officers, and the tribute is paid in a letter by the Commandant, Lieut.-Col. May, in a letter to Mr. Powell, Chief Librarian of Birmingham.

In the course of his letter, Lieut.-Colonel May says:—"I feel it is a duty to write and tell you what loyal and devoted service I have received from Sergeant-Major Cashmore. He has a perfectly extraordinary energy and capacity for work. During exceptionally heavy periods he has never failed to rise to the occasion, and I have known him to work from 8.30 a.m. until past midnight for weeks on end in order to keep the orderly-room affairs in hand and up-to-date. . . . It has been invaluable to the work and conduct of this school to have had in the central office a man of his education, address, and organising ability. It has been my good fortune, during 37 years' military experience, to have been assisted at different times by officers and N.C.O.'s of ability, but I have never had a more capable coadjutor than Sergeant-Major Cashmore."

We congratulate Mr. Cashmore on having performed his duties so efficiently, and are proud to number such men among our members.

**Mr. Lange's Gift.**—With further reference to Mr. Lange's generous gift, of which mention was made in our last issue, we now have the pleasure in announcing that with the kind co-operation of Mr. W. J. Harris, arrangements are being made for the early transference of the collection to the Association's library, which is housed at the Islington Central Library.

**The Late Dr. Barrett.**—Our readers will regret to learn of the death of Dr. Francis T. Barrett, who was appointed first librarian of the Glasgow Mitchell Library in 1877, and first city librarian in 1901. He retired in 1914, his services being retained as consulting librarian. In recognition of his work as city librarian, the degree of LL.D. was conferred on him in 1913. Dr. Barrett took a keen interest in the establishment of our West of Scotland Branch, and addressed the Branch in November, 1916. The address was printed in our issue for January, 1917.

#### NEW MEMBERS.

**Members:** Misses D. C. **Crowhurst**, Gladstone Library, National Liberal Club; Minnie **Watkiss**, Custom House Library, West Ham.

**Associates:** Misses Elsie **Hill**, Lincoln; and Hilda **Killick**, Tottenham.

**South Coast Branch: Associate:** Miss D. **Painter**, Portsmouth.

**Yorkshire Branch: Associate:** Miss **Smith**, Leeds Mechanics' Institute.

## PROCEEDINGS.

### YORKSHIRE BRANCH.

By kind permission of the City Librarian, Thomas W. Hand, Esq., the Annual Meeting was held at the Leeds Central Library, on January 15th, 1919, at 3 p.m. Mr. G. W. Strother presided over a good attendance.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the President addressed a few remarks to the members, in which he asked for suggestions for the coming year.

In anticipation of the return of members who had been serving with His Majesty's Forces, it was felt that a more extensive programme should be drawn up. Arrangements were therefore made for meetings to be held in March, May, June, September, and December.

The report on the work of the Branch for the year ending December, 1918, was read and unanimously adopted. A proposition that the Committee be elected by a show of hands was unanimously agreed upon. It was proposed by Mr. Haxby and seconded by Miss Greenwood that the Executive Officers be re-elected.

The Committee for 1919 is as follows:—

*President* : Mr. G. W. Strother.

*Vice-Presidents* : Messrs. J. C. Handby and R. Ineson.

*Hon. Treasurer* : Mr. W. Procter.

*Hon. Secretary* : Mr. R. W. Parsons.

*Committee* : Messrs. Butterfield, Gilgrass, Goulden, Haigh, Haxby, Osborne, Pollitt, Taylor, Treiving, and Misses Blenkinsop, Calam, and Waggett.

A paper was read by Mr. Haxby (of Leeds) on "Library Service and Business," in which he contended that library authorities had too long ignored the just claims of those engaged in commercial pursuits to be catered for by the provision of special libraries to meet their requirements, and there was no greater field in which to develop the library service of this country than amongst business men. Too long had the savant, the dilettante, and the pedant been regarded as the only possible patrons of the large reference libraries.

When the newer Universities were providing elaborately equipped laboratories where the ablest specialists in every branch of technology expounded the most up-to-date theories, when business colleges were being established throughout the country, was it not time that the library world should realize its opportunity to provide the highly specialized form of Library which alone commends itself to the business man of to-day?

America had already led the way in this, as in many other library activities; England was following, but as yet the number of technical and commercial libraries was relatively small.

Mr. Haxby referred to the necessity of bringing ourselves, as a nation, into closer inter-communication with other countries, if we hoped to maintain our commercial supremacy. By providing means and focussing them so as to be more readily accessible than formerly, special departments of this kind would help to show the unspeakable set in Germany and Austria that their vaunted supremacy in these matters is a thing of the past.

In conclusion, Mr. Haxby said that the motive for the establishment of Commercial and Technical Libraries was not to teach Commerce and Technology, neither was it intended to pose as tutors to the captains of industry or even to the modest business man. We were chiefly concerned with making ourselves familiar with the sources of information and placing same at the disposal of readers when required.